

sport is there like open air skating? Away with your stupid cotillions and fandangos of the ball room; let our sport be on the gleaming ice, where we almost run wild in our feeling of freedom!

And now let us take a run down to "where the keen curlers be." The first game of curling ever played in the Province was on a mill dam at Beauport, in 1805. After this, an artificial rink was made on one of the wharves in the lower town of Quebec in 1808, and regularly renewed every season. The "stones" then used were made of the hardest granite, as in Scotland, but as the intense frost cracked them, recourse was had to iron; a model for which was made by a cooper in the lower town and sent to the forges at Three Rivers, from whence a supply was received, some of which are still in the possession of the Quebec C. Club. Scotch players who have used both, prefer the iron to stone, as they are more easily weighted, not so cumbrous, and keep a truer "turn up" to the "tee." Great interest is taken every year in the matches between the different cities, and it does one good to see our sober-sided merchants, throwing off their dignity and coats, and betaking themselves with vigor to the game; sending the stones spinning up the ice, or frantically sweeping those they wish to hurry on, forgetting all about "stocks," and "notes to pay," in the excitement of the game.

But what are all these imported sports to our own Canadian originals? Have you ever heard of snow-shoeing. I think you have. We confess that skating took possession of the seven senses of Canadians last winter, but we are notwithstanding, a province of snow-shoers. I need not describe the shoe to Canadian readers; but will just say for the information of others, that it is formed of one thin piece of hickory or ash, bent to a long oval, and bound at the back ends which meet. Its length is three feet long by ten inches wide; much broader for long tramps in deep snow. Two strips of wood are now fastened to near the top and bottom of this long oval frame, and the whole interior woven with a net-work of deerskin thongs; a hole being left near the front for the reception of the toe, which slightly projects through when walking. There is a shoe for each foot of course and they are fastened to the feet by thongs of moose skin. A mile on snow-shoes can be made in  $6\frac{1}{2}$  minutes, by a good snow-shoer; over snow which would take you  $6\frac{1}{2}$  minutes to get out of the first step you would take in it without snow-shoes. Dr. Rae, the arctic traveller, once walked on them, from Hamilton to Toronto—40 miles,—between breakfast and dinner. The troops in Canada are drilled on them, and the idea of Volunteers manœuvring on snow-shoes was originated last year by the Victoria Rifles of Montreal, in a grand sham fight on the mountain. This corps acted as part of the attacking party, and some hundreds strong, marched up the mountain and skirmished on these shoes. The latter city is the great city of snow-shoes. Just come